

Wrestling qualifies 10 athletes for nationals  
UNO takes first place at NCAA regional tournament.

**SPORTS**  
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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 41

# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

SINCE 1913

'Waiting for Godot'  
review  
The latest offering from the UNO Theatre Dept. does justice to the tragic-comedy classic.

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
[PAGE 7]



FRIDAY | MARCH 6, 2009

## Mavericks capture UNO's first MIAA conference championship

SEAN OWENS  
STAFF WRITER

Since joining the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association on July 1, 2008, UNO athletics had yet to secure a conference championship.

However, on Sunday the Maverick indoor track and field team became the first athletes in UNO history to stamp their names in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association record books as conference champions.

Competing for the program's first MIAA conference title in Warrensburg, Mo., over the weekend the team eventually reigned supreme with a dramatic finish.

The qualifying events in the sprint competitions were an exciting conclusion for what would in the end come down to a single 4x440 relay.

Not all of UNO's sports have had their chance at their titles, but previously this year, volleyball, soccer and football were unable to secure their respective conference championships.

**Day one - Friday**



The track and field team finished first at the MIAA indoor track championship. The Mavericks entered the final day of competition in last place in the nine-team meet but scored 87.5 points to finish with 94 points. (PHOTO COURTESY DAVE KOPP)

Starting the weekend, junior multi-event specialist Shannon Moore led the Mavs to a fourth-place finish in the pentathlon, behind Central Missouri's Lindsay Lettow. Moore ended the day with a first-place finish in the 800-meter, posting a time of 2:24.96 - almost a second faster than the second-place finisher.

"Schools like Central Missouri and Missouri Southern are pretty dominant and have been winning for years," Coach Steve Smith said. "We knew going in that these schools were very good in the field and distance events. We also knew that whichever team could maximize its strengths was going to be the winner of

this thing."

Though heavily trailing the competition after day one, the spirit of the team would begin to shine in the sprint qualifications on day two.

### Day two - Saturday

On day two, the strength of the UNO track and field

SEE **TRACK**: PAGE 7

## Milliken addresses Appropriations Committee; UNO budget advisory task force Web site online

University is an important part of the solution for Nebraska," Milliken said in prepared remarks.

If the committee sticks with its original 1.5 percent funding increase for the NU system, Milliken said, the university would have a \$45 million shortfall over the 2009-11 biennium. Even with a 5 percent tuition increase, the university would remain more than \$23 million in the red over the two-year period.

If this happens, "the result is the elimination of somewhere between 300 and 600 good jobs across the university," Milliken told the nine-member committee.

Worse, these figures don't even take into consideration the life insurance benefit or the 3.8 percent annual salary increase recently won in collective bargaining with the UNO campus by the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The impact of those

additional personnel costs short the UNO campus an additional \$1.1 million for salary and potentially \$2 million more for life insurance, if it is extended to all employees, Milliken said.

Milliken asked the committee to increase funding for the university despite the national recession. He quoted President Obama's address to Congress, saying the solutions to our problems "exist in our laboratories and our universities; in our fields and our factories; in the imaginations of our entrepreneurs and the pride of the hardest-working people on Earth."

Research and development programs within the NU system translate into more than 10,000 Nebraskan jobs, Milliken said.

"We should try to maintain our efforts to improve Nebraskan's prospects for the future - by investing in an institute that has the power to help our state grow stronger economically - to create jobs, to help our citizens increase

their earning capacity through education and to conduct research in critical areas such as water, transportation and energy that can help spur economic recovery," Milliken said.

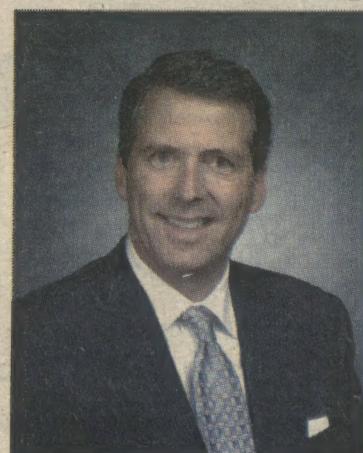
Also addressing the Appropriations Committee was Board of Regents Chairman Kent Schroeder, who testified that the university was strong and healthy. He also outlined the strategic goals the regents follow in managing the university.

"I fully appreciate the challenges of today's economic climate," Schroeder said. "But I urge you to consider the role that a strong university can play in economic recovery."

Following the university hearing with the Appropriations Committee, the UNO campus launched a Web site to inform the campus community of the budget process.

The Web site, available at <https://www.unomaha.edu/budgetadvisoryf> (be sure to include the "https" portion), is

SEE **BUDGET**: PAGE 8



JAMES B. MILLIKEN

SCOTT STEWART  
NEWS EDITOR

University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken went in front of the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee Tuesday to put the university's budget situation on the table.

"Today I ask you to support the University of Nebraska, not because we deserve special treatment in this difficult economy, but because I think the

## College taking look at how to explain course requirements

JUDY RYDBERG  
COPY & LINE EDITOR

On the road to a degree, it's easy for students to get lost in the many course requirements and electives. The College of Arts and Sciences, home to more than 3,000 UNO students, is now creating a road map to simplify the journey toward graduation.

The college is currently changing how its degree requirements are presented to students.

Right now, each department within the college has its own way of explaining what students need to do to graduate. To simplify the process, the college is requesting all departments use one unified format.

"What we have in the college is a lack of consistency about how degree plans are presented," said David Boocker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who originally recommended the changes. "Some departments have checklists; some have some form of degree plan; some have nothing."

The new degree plan formats will be available as one-page handouts at first, but Boocker said he hopes they will eventually be accessible online as well.

The handouts will contain information such as each department's mission statement, degree programs, general education requirements, student activities and relevant contact information.

Such handouts are already available  
SEE **PLAN**: PAGE 8

## University sponsoring two free self-defense workshops for students

CAITRIN SHIRAZI  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Year after year, college-aged women continue to be at the highest risk for sexual assaults. Looking to curb those statistics, UNO is hosting self-defense workshops on campus.

The workshops, which run today from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and again on April 11 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., are free for students and \$10 for faculty and staff members.

A variety of safety topics and techniques will be discussed, and participants will learn basic and effective self-defense techniques to help them be safe and confident in their ability to protect themselves in troublesome situations.

The workshops are organized by Dave Daniels, assistant director for Fitness /Wellness and Instructional Programs. Workshop co-sponsors are Campus Security, Wellness Stampede, Human

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# Fraternity holds African-American trivia contest

**MIKE BELL**  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Omega Psi Phi fraternity conducted its first African-American History Quiz Bowl on Tuesday in the Eppley Administration Building Auditorium.

The fraternity hopes to sponsor the event regularly.

"We hope we can do it once or twice a month in the future and get more members to come," said John Ramirez, who moderated the event for the fraternity.

The participants answered questions about African-American history, although jokes regularly punctuated the fast-paced but informal trivia contest.

The contest started as team Blue

Phi, consisting of Brandon Williams and Cameron Carter, won the first round against team Tabshod, whose name is a combination of members Tabatha Sturdvant and Rashad Kirxi.

Also in the first round, the A Team, consisting of Dee Wright and Justin Young, was defeated by Team 2, consisting of Teylor Gaskin and Aja Anderson, who went on to face Blue Phi in the final round.

Blue Phi emerged as the clear winner, even with Team 2 getting more difficult questions in the round such as "Who helped advances with blood transfusions?" (Answer: Charles Drew, the first black surgeon to serve as an examiner on the American Board



From left to right, Cameron Carter, Brandon Williams, Rashad Kirxi and Tabatha Sturdvant compete during the first round of the African-American History Quiz Bowl on Wednesday. (MIKE BELL/THE GATEWAY)

of Surgery.)

"We got cheated," Wright said

jokingly after the A Team soundly lost the consolation round.

## Homecoming queen organizes well-received volunteer event

**CAITRIN SHIRAZI**

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

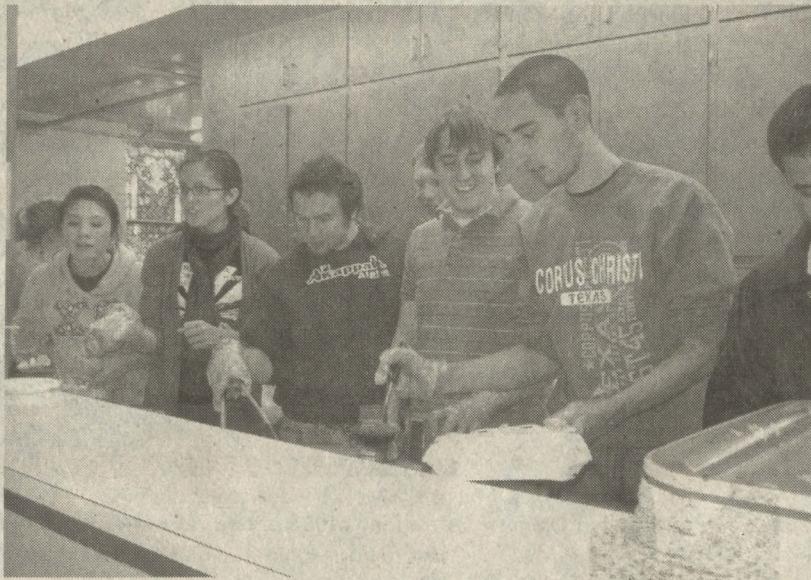
More than 100 hot spaghetti dinners were served to less fortunate members of the Omaha community during a volunteer event organized by UNO royalty.

Homecoming Queen Nicole Massara organized the event Saturday at First Baptist Church in Omaha, which she said embodied the community service mentality at UNO.

"Everyone at the church was so overwhelmed with the enthusiastic help from all the volunteers," Massara said.

Left over food from the event was donated to the Omaha Day House, the Open Door Mission and was used for take-home meals for those who were not able to make it to the church after Friday night's snowstorm.

"We ended up serving about 130 meals at the church and the leftovers went to the Open Door



From left to right, students Elisa Born, Felicia Synowicki, Will Targy, David Gnam and Bill Larsen serve food to those in need at First Baptist Church in Omaha on Feb. 28 as part of a service event organized by homecoming queen Nicole Massara. (CAITRIN SHIRAZI/THE GATEWAY)

Mission, so in all we served around 200 meals," Massara said.

Massara learned about the opportunity while on the

campaign trail for Homecoming royalty. Russell Smith, an associate professor of public administration, approached

Massara about volunteering with Mosaic Community Development, which works with the Park Avenue neighborhood.

Among those who volunteered were two professors from the College of Business Administration as well as representatives of UNO athletic teams, Student Organizations and Leadership Programs, Student Government, Maverick Productions and other colleges on campus.

Massara said she believes volunteering is an important part of the college experience.

"I think it is an amazing way for UNO to engage in the community, make a difference and garner respect from our city," Massara said.

Anyone interested in volunteering at similar events can contact Brittany Hanson, director of community development for Mosaic Community Development, by phone at 933-6672 or by e-mail at brittany@mosaiccd.org.

## Regents to consider student center, parking structure improvements

**SCOTT STEWART**

NEWS EDITOR

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents will meet Friday to consider a short agenda that includes \$783,000 in spending on the Milo Bail Student Center and the Arts and Sciences Building parking structure.

The regents will consider two resolutions to allocate money from the Sixth Series Replacement Fund created by revenue bonds paid for by fees and revenue the university collects from owning and operating the Milo Bail Student Center, Scott Village, Maverick Village and student parking facilities.

The fund supports the continued maintenance of those facilities.

One resolution before the board allocates \$257,000 to renovate the Arts and Sciences Building parking structure. Of that allocation, \$121,000 will go towards tuck pointing, a process of repairing joints in brickwork using new mortar, and \$136,000 will go towards seal coating, an asphalt treatment used to protect surfaces from aging.

The other resolution sets aside \$526,000 to make improvements to the student center, with \$130,000 earmarked to replace upholstered furniture and furnishings in public

areas and with \$396,000 going to replace lighting, ceilings, wall finishing and floor coverings in the ballroom on the second floor.

The regents are also expected to approve the appointment of Nancy Edick, who was recently selected to be the next dean of the College of Education.

Before the meeting, NU President James B. Milliken will give a presentation on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during the Business Affairs Committee around 10:30 a.m. The regents will also hear an update on the legislative and budget processes in the Nebraska Legislature.

The regents' meeting begins at 1 p.m. in Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street in Lincoln. Audio from the meeting is streamed live on the university's Web site, nebraska.edu, which also provides a complete copy of the regents' agenda.

### CRIME LOG

No entries were made in the Campus Security public log for the period between Feb. 24 and March 2 as of Wednesday afternoon.

- Scott Stewart

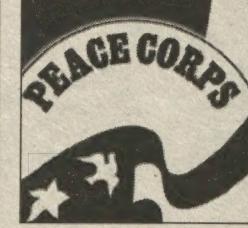
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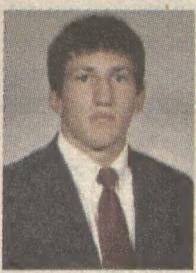
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# SPORTS

MARCUS HANSEN | SPORTS EDITOR

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SPORTS@UNOGATEWAY.COM | MARCH 6, 2009



MATT REIN

MARCUS HANSEN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Maverick wrestlers took first in the 2009 NCAA II Regional Tournament last weekend at the Pershing Arena at Truman State University.

The No. 1 ranked Mavs also picked up several individual awards, including outstanding wrestler and coach of the year, Sunday.

Assistant Head Coach Ron Higdon, now serving his 17th season under Coach Mike Denney, said there was not much debate regarding "Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Region."

Senior Todd Meneely won hands down, punctuating the honor with two pins and a technique fall victory at 157 pounds during the tournament.

The other individual award went to redshirt freshman Esai Dominguez.

Dominguez, who finished second in the region at 149 pounds, earned



CODY GARCIA



MARIO MORGAN



TODD MENEELY

ESAI DOMINGUEZ

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ARMY STRONG.

FLANNY

## Wrestling wins regionals, national title in grasp

"Freshman of the Year."

"Dominguez and Meneely are both deserving of the awards," Higdon said. "I'm happy their work ethic has paid off for them, and I can't wait to see how they do at the national tournament."

But, the players weren't the only ones collecting accolades. Adding to the team's honors, Denney earned "Coach of the Year."

"I don't remember how many times I won it in the other conferences, but it's always nice to win it, especially in a new region," Denney said.

Junior Cody Garcia, sophomore Mario Morgan, senior Brent Pankoke, senior Ross Taplin and Meneely each finished with championship wins, but the return of junior Jacob Marrs was evident in the big tournament win.

Marrs has been out since Jan. 31 when UNO competed against instate rival UNK.

"His knee looked to be fine, but he looked a little bit out of shape in his final match," Higdon said after Marrs lost to Josh Ole of Ashland University Sunday.

Along with Marrs and Dominguez, senior heavyweight Tony Lewis came

away with a runner-up finish at 285 pounds.

Lewis and Marrs will each be making their third trip to the national tournament. Taplin earned his fourth trip to Nationals with a first-place finish at

174 pounds.

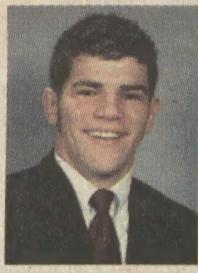
Taplin won 16-1 on a technical fall and a 9-0 major decision before winning the weight class by forfeit due to illness in the title match against second-ranked Tommy McCarty of Central Oklahoma.

"2006 is the only other year 10 wrestlers qualified for Nationals, so we are very excited to see how we all do," Denney said.

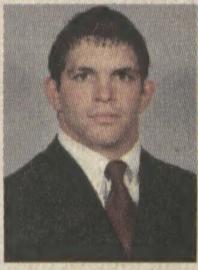
On March 13, UNO will look to win its sixth national championship in school history at the NCAA DII Nationals in Houston. The Mavericks have won the national championship in 1970, 1991, 2004, 2005 and 2006.



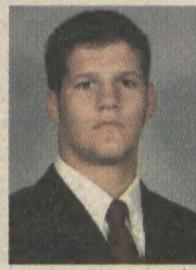
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# Baseball team finishes RussMatt tourney 4-4, continues road series

**MICHELLE BISHOP**  
PHOTO EDITOR

After six days of competition at the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational in Winterhaven, Fla., the UNO baseball team finished with a 4-4 record to improve to 10-5 overall.

Senior Evan Porter currently leads the team with a .482 batting average. He also leads the team with 27 hits, 11 doubles, 18 runs, 44 total bases and 16 RBIs.

Sophomore Travis Jacobi and Porter are tied for the team lead in home runs with two each.

The Mavs continue their 19-game, season-opening road trip with their first Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association series of the year, Friday through Sunday at Emporia State. The Hornets are 10-3 on the season, including 2-0 in the MIAA and 3-0 at home.

First pitch is set for Friday at 3:00 p.m. On Saturday, the teams play a double-header at 1:00 p.m. and finish the series on Sunday at noon.

"When you get a chance to play quality opponents, I see all these games as prep for the rest of the season," Coach Bob Herold said. "Play everybody that can beat you. If they can't beat you, they won't make you better."

## Feb. 26: University of Tampa 11, Nebraska-Omaha 4

UNO got on the board early, putting up three runs in the first and adding another in the third, but it wasn't enough, as the ninth-ranked University of Tampa scored 10 unanswered runs to rally for the win.

"We learned a lot about our club," Herold said. "We didn't step up, we got ahead of Tampa, jumped up, but didn't sustain. We didn't keep attacking them."

Senior Brian Goliber finished 2-for-4

with a double and three RBIs, while junior leadoff hitter Andrew Hansen added three doubles. Redshirt freshman pitcher Paul Hansen picked up the loss.

## Feb. 27 - Game 1: Nebraska-Omaha 14, Hillsdale 5

UNO's offense exploded, hammering out 13 hits while putting up four-run innings in the fourth and fifth and a five-run inning in the seventh. Senior Ben Percival picked up the win, improving to 3-0 on the year, and finished with six strikeouts in six innings.

Porter went 4-for-5 with three RBIs and Andrew Hansen collected a pair of hits and four RBIs to lead the Mavs to the win. Senior Matt Meyer was 3-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base.

## Feb. 27 - Game 2: Hillsdale 8, UNO 7, 8 innings

UNO dropped the second game of a doubleheader against Hillsdale College of Michigan in extra innings. Freshman Colby McCord's double in the bottom of the seventh tied the game at six, but Hillsdale got both runs back in the top of the eighth. The Mavs came within 8-7 in the bottom of the inning, but could get no closer.

Maverick pitchers gave up nine walks and hit four batters. Junior Mark Johnson took the loss for UNO.

## Feb. 28: Nebraska-Omaha 14, Gannon University 2

UNO jumped out to an early 7-0 lead after two innings and finished with 18 hits, as six different batters finished with multi-hits. Freshman Brett Koehn led the Mavs, going 3-for-3 at the plate and hitting his first career home run.

Seniors Chris Kessinger and Drew Schwab each hit their first career homers for UNO, while starting pitcher freshman

Joe Holtmeyer picked up his first career win. Holtmeyer leads UNO with an ERA of 0.82 and strikeouts with 20.

## March 1: Nebraska-Omaha 4, Kentucky Wesleyan 1

Sophomore pitcher Tom Schmidt picked up the win after going five innings, striking out six and allowing just one unearned run. Senior Mat Eikmeier led the Mavs, going 3-for-4 and driving in a run with an RBI single in the sixth.

UNO's bullpen shut down Kentucky Wesleyan to preserve the win. Schwab came on to relieve Schmidt in the bottom of the sixth, working three scoreless innings before senior Brian Strawn retired the side in order to pick up his first save of the season.

## March 2 - Game 1: Grand Valley State 12, Nebraska-Omaha 5

## Game 2: Grand Valley State 6, Nebraska-Omaha 1

Grand Valley State pitchers sophomore Joe Jablonski and senior Ben Knuth led the sixth-ranked Lakers to a two-game sweep over UNO. The two starters combined for 13 innings of work and gave up just two runs while striking out 13 Mavs.

Knuth went all seven innings in game two and carried a no-hitter through 5 1/3 innings.

"We ran into two real good teams," Herold said. "Tampa and Grand Valley got us early and we kind of backed up a little bit and didn't sustain our attack, baseball is a momentum game. You score, I score, you don't score and I score, we've got a heck of a game."

Strawn and Porter each had two hits in the opening game. Porter drove in three runs with a double to right field in the seventh inning and Strawn knocked in two with a single in the first and a double in the seventh.

McCord broke up the shutout in the second game as he drove in Eikmeier with a single in the seventh.

In the first game, junior Brandon Dahl (0-1) allowed five runs through four innings while striking out two. Paul Hansen (1-2) started on the mound for UNO in the second game, and allowed five runs through four innings of work with four strikeouts. Justin Bruns pitched the final two innings and allowed one run off four hits.

## March 3: Nebraska-Omaha 13, Virginia Wesleyan 0

Porter and Brett Koehn each hit a pair of home runs as UNO cruised to the win in the final game of the invitational. The Mavs finished with 15 hits and five home runs.

Koehn went 4-for-4 with a grand slam while Andrew Hansen added a homer.

# Softball starts hot in the cold

**MARCUS HANSEN**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO softball team started out its season with twice as many wins as losses in the Southeastern Oklahoma tournament.

After a 1-0 win over Angelo State on Feb. 20, later in the day they beat Southwestern Oklahoma State 6-1. UNO was picked in a tie for No. 1 in a preseason Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association coaches' poll.

In Division II college softball, when one team is winning by eight or more runs after the fifth inning, the leading team is awarded the win. On Feb. 21, that rule was used for both of the Mavs' games.

The Mavs started off the morning losing 10-2 to Abilene Christian. However,

the Mavs rebounded their defeat by beating preseason ranked No. 3 Saint Edwards 11-1. Both games lasted only five innings due to the run rule.

"Beth Harris really came through for us against the big teams," Coach Jeanne Scarpello said. Harris is a sophomore catcher.

The win against Saint Edwards was Scarpello's 400th career win.

"I was so focused on the tournament that I didn't realize it until we got back and someone told me," Scarpello said.

On Feb. 22, the Mavs faced defense oriented University of St. Mary.

The Mavs came through with a 2-1 win, with only one error committed the

SEE SOFTBALL: PAGE 5

# Mavs host Bulldogs for first-round of conference playoffs

**Students will need \$3 for admission to games**

**SCOTT STEWART**  
NEWS EDITOR

The Mavericks will begin their run for the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament title this weekend at the Qwest Center as they host Ferris State in the first round.

UNO finished its season two weeks ago at 13-15-8 overall and 8-13-7-4 in the conference, after going idle for the final weekend of CCHA play.

The Mavs finished eight overall in the conference after having its best start in program history – going 9-2-1 overall and 5-2-1-1 in CCHA play through Nov. 12. UNO finished, however, on a school-record 14-game winless streak, with the team not winning a game since Jan. 9.

In postseason play, the Mavericks are 10-18 overall in CCHA tournament action since they entered the conference

in the 1999-2000 season. This series will make the first time UNO has met Ferris State in the playoffs.

The Mavs are looking for a fifth consecutive, first-round series victory, having eliminated Alaska in 2008, Bowling Green in both 2007 and 2006 and Lake Superior State in 2005.

UNO and the Bulldogs are regular-season clustermates, with Ferris State building a 2-1-1 record against UNO in four regular season games.

On Jan. 30, the Bulldogs earned a 7-1 win over UNO in Big Rapids, Mich., and picked up a shootout win after a 1-1 tie the next day. Earlier in the season, the Mavs earned a 4-2 win over Ferris State on Nov. 15 after dropping a game 3-2 the previous night.

This weekend's contest will be a best-of-three series, with games scheduled

SEE HOCKEY: PAGE 7

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Adam Pye  
Doctoral Candidate

# Maverick men secure program's second shutout win

**TAYLOR MULLER**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For the UNO men's tennis team, when it rains it most certainly pours. Whether the adage is felt in cases like last week's shutout loss at the hands of Graceland University, or Friday's Maverick shutout over Doane College, the men have been competing at either far above or below their skill level, said Coach Bill Nichols.

"It's a case where [Graceland's] skills and their techniques were so far superior that it didn't matter how hard one would try, there's just no chance," Nichols said.

That sentiment is something Doane's tennis team can certainly

relate to, given the 9-0 thrashing the Mavericks handed the Tigers.

"It was really evident. It turned out to be a one-sided match due to the real differences in skill level," Nichols said.

The Mavericks, now 2-2, did not surrender a single set as they fought through singles and doubles play. Starting for UNO at No. 1 singles, Chase Petersen dispatched Doane's Josh Siske 6-1 and 6-1.

Every other singles match went in favor of Mavericks, with Matt Frost winning 6-1 and 6-0 at No. 2 and John Diamantis defeating his No. 3 opponent 6-1 and 6-2.

No. 4 singles was the only match where it looked like Doane could claim a set, but

eventually fell to UNO's Mike Hupf 6-2 and 7-6.

Justin Stein defeated Doane's Josh Johnson 6-1 and 6-3 at No. 5 singles, winning both sets easily to take him to 2-0 on the season.

UNO's No. 6 Tom Rickert made a strong showing in his first collegiate match, stomping Tanner Vitko 6-3 and 6-0.

Doubles play fared just as well for the Mavs, with the three matches sealing UNO's shutout. The No. 1 team of Jon McQuistan and Petersen handled its opponents just fine, securing a 8-4 victory over Doane. No. 2 and No. 3 doubles were both UNO wins at 8-1 for Frost and Matt Wisch; and Ben

Williams and Ivan Yakovlev, respectively. The win was the first for both Wisch and Yakovlev.

Three of UNO's players were on the sidelines with injuries. Junior Matt Nohl sat out due to a sore right shoulder; sophomore James Fonda was out because of a strained elbow and knee while senior Marcus Hansen suffered from a strained tendon in his left foot. All three are expected to compete today at Nebraska-Kearney in a 3 p.m. match.

Nichols said he believed the Mavs were favored against the Lopers, but that it was "a match where the skill levels are a little more similar."

FROM SOFTBALL: PAGE 4

whole game by both teams throughout the game.

Even though the Mavs won the first two games by mercy rule, they struggled at the plate in the final game of the tournament playing Southeastern Oklahoma State.

The Mavs only had one hit against the Southeastern Oklahoma State pitcher senior Marjorie Johnson. The Mavs fell to Southeastern Oklahoma 4-0 to end the frigid tournament with an overall record of 4-2.

"I don't necessarily think the cold weather gave us an advantage because everyone was freezing; it was very hard for everyone to play in," junior catcher Julia Krejci said.

Concluding the tournament, Harris was received the pitcher of the week award and freshman Katelyn Hinton won athlete of the week.

"Katelyn has a very explosive bat and she is very fast, which makes her such a great lead off hitter," Krejci said. "It's scary she is only a freshman."

On Feb. 27, the Mavs went into the Missouri Southern/Pittsburg State tournament with hot bats.

The Mavs played Oklahoma Panhandle State. The Mavs showed no mercy, winning 9-1, with the run rule determining the game for UNO, once again.

"The wind was the biggest factor in the game," Krejci said. "We played well and capitalized on their mistakes, and they made a lot of mental mistakes because of the wind, I was really proud of the way we played defense in those conditions."

The remaining two games, against Washburn and Drury were canceled due to snowy conditions.

The Mavs are back in action today as they travel to the Missouri Southern tournament. They start the tournament playing Northwest Missouri State.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 6, 2009 | ENTERTAINMENT@UNOGATEWAY.COM

PAGE 6

ANDREA BARBE | ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

## Bachelor's finale switch

ANDREA CIUREJ  
ASSISTANT SECTION EDITOR

One of America's most eligible bachelors turned into one of America's most eligible bastards after having a change of heart in front of more than 15 million viewers.

Seattle's single father Jason Mesnick, 32, ended his journey for love after proposing to former Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader Melissa Rycroft, 25, only to reject her six weeks after the proposal, which aired on a taped "After the Final Rose" special.

I believe Mesnick was a bastard for dumping Rycroft in front of millions of viewers, but he had no choice - it was part of the contract he signed with ABC to put it all out there. He's even crueler for ruining the sanctity of a "once-in-a-lifetime" wedding proposal.

"You took that from me," Rycroft said. "I wish more than anything that on that last day you would've just let me go instead of doing this to me."

Aside from the fact that I was a fan of 29-year-old Jillian Harris, I felt Mesnick was selfish toward Rycroft's feelings, in the sense that he's already experienced marriage. Although divorced, Mesnick has a 3-year-old son, Ty, to show for his once-happy relationship. Rycroft, with aspirations of being a school teacher, only dreamed of getting married and spending time with children of her own.

Mesnick should have definitely considered his feelings for Rycroft after he relentlessly wept over the balcony of his New Zealand quarters after rejecting 24-year-old Grand Rapids, Mich., native Molly Malaney.

"I fell completely in love with you, and on that last day, I knew I wanted to give you everything," Mesnick said to a puzzled Rycroft on the after-show. "You are exactly what I was looking for when I came here, but I learned a lot about myself this last three months."

I felt that Mesnick knew he made a mistake all along, right from the very moment he closed the limo door to bid Malaney adieu. But, "The Bachelor" always ends with a proposal and the distribution of the final rose.

Instead of chasing Malaney's limo or calling the



producers of ABC to demand Malaney be driven back at once - which he should have done - Mesnick took it upon himself to give Rycroft the luxury of a long-awaited, fairy-tale ending on national television.

While I'm suggesting that his feelings for Malaney were much stronger, I believe Mesnick when he says that he was falling for two people at the same time.

Although I feel that it was a standard procedure to propose, Mesnick still loved Rycroft.

Mesnick vied to meet her parents after the hometown date in Dallas and tried to overcome his feelings for Malaney when talking to Rycroft over the phone after the show ended.

"That was the right thing for us," Mesnick said. "But, I can't control my head."

Holding back her tears, Rycroft handed Mesnick her 1.94-carat engagement ring crafted by Neil Lane and exited the studio. Then, Mesnick proceeded to win Malaney's affection, once again.

"So much of what I've been looking for, and I didn't even know it, was right in front of my face," Mesnick

said. "I was hoping we could have a shot, see if we could go out for coffee or a drink and see where things go.... That's all I'm asking."

Malaney, confused, reunited with Mesnick and suggested that, although her feelings never changed, the two still had a lot to talk about.

Now, I have a little confession to make: As I sat on the couch watching the "After the Final Rose" special, I yipped with glee while cuddling with my blanket as I sat and watched Malaney take Mesnick back.

Regardless of his bastardly act - and America isn't going to agree - but, he shouldn't be dubbed the Brad Womack of "The Bachelor."

Rycroft might have been "the one" for Mesnick while slurping champagne and exchanging kisses in hot tubs overlooking New Zealand, but she's not the practical suitor for the rainy Seattle skyline.

His love for Rycroft made the season finale a predictable one, but the love wasn't enough to ensure a happy ending. Rycroft might have become the favorite among the 25 beautiful bachelorettes, but off-camera, it's Mesnick's life. Deal with it, America.

## UNO brings back Double Reed Day

ANDREA BARBE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The UNO Department of Music will host the second annual Double Reed Day at the Strauss Performing Arts Center on March 6.

The event runs from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will feature classes, rehearsals and an evening concert at the Strauss Recital Hall with three music professors who hail locally and across the nation.

Oboist Rebecca Henderson is a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, as well as a former visiting principal oboist of the National Symphony Orchestra. Henderson has even had her music featured on film scores and in IMAX movies, including "Everest" and "Olympic Glory."

Henderson joins Susan Hatch Tomkiewicz and Dr. Nathaniel Ziesler for a day of music education. Tomkiewicz is a professor at UNO, teaching oboe, music history and music appreciation. Ziesler, assistant professor of bassoon at Bowling Green State University, serves as the founder and executive director of the Envision Chamber Consort, a group dedicated to presenting music as contemporary communication.

Registration for Double Reed Day begins at noon. The evening recital kicks off at 7:30 p.m. and will include works by Andre Previn, Richard Henderson and Russell Pinkston.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and free for UNO students and faculty with a current MavCard ID. To purchase tickets, call 554-3427 or visit <http://www.unomaha.edu/music/events.php> for a rundown of the day's activities.

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# 'Godot' well worth the wait

MIKE BELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

UNO kicks off its first production of 2009 and it's one not to be missed.

The UNO Department of Theatre presents Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot." The play, directed by Douglas Paterson, tells the tale of two men as they wait two days for a man named Godot.

Why they're waiting for him is never presented clearly. The two men admit that Godot is only an acquaintance and that neither would recognize him on sight.

The stage setting is on a dirt road in France sometime around 1948. It was something I had never seen before. A large catwalk represented the road, which sloped upward from the entrance with a large, lifeless looking tree at the top. The audience could sit on either side of the road, putting the actors directly in front of the audience. This makes the play deeply personal, as you can see every nuanced facial expression.

The play begins with the first man Estragon, played by Christina Thomas, trying to take off his woefully small shoe while sitting on a tree stump in the middle of the stage. Vladimir, played by Christopher Harris, soon runs in and the two begin to pass the time while waiting for Godot.

They sing, play games, fight and bicker

about the past. Estragon dozes off from time to time while Vladimir speaks to himself about the pale sky, pacing back and forth up the stage. They do whatever they can to "keep back the terrible silence," as Vladimir puts it.

The dialogue is rife with witty and, at times, lewd banter between the two friends, joking to each other about the utter hopelessness of their situation and Vlad's inability to urinate.

Harris does a fantastic job playing the role of a desperate man with little left to hope for. His character stands tall, even when you sense that he's so close to defeat. He thinly disguises his worry when trying to convince Estragon how important Godot is.

Soon enough, they are joined by Pozzo, Caleb Eigsti's character. Pozzo has with him his "pig" Lucky, played by Hali Barber. Lucky, a battered and tired woman with a rope around her neck, carries Pozzo's luggage as he holds onto the rope like a leash and whips her forward like a sled dog.

Eigsti does the dominating character justice. The character's arrogance comes to life with every movement and smirk. Barber's portrayal of Lucky, an insane and abused slave, has the power to make the audience members squirm in their seats.



Christina Thomas, left, and Christopher Harris, are the two main characters in "Waiting for Godot." (UNO THEATRE/COURTESY)

Another high point of the production was Jackson Cottrell's portrayal of The Boy. Cottrell contributed some of the funniest lines of the play. He left the audience howling.

The theater department did a fantastic job with this classic, and I look forward to its future works with great anticipation.

Each actor was phenomenal, the set was incredibly innovative and the story was hilarious, while still tragic in its scope.

"Waiting for Godot" will be playing through March 8. To purchase tickets, call 554-2335 or visit the box office located on the first floor of the Weber Fine Arts Building.

## Dare it be said, but 'Watchmen' disappoints this fan boy

MIKE BELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

There is a reason Alan Moore, writer for "Watchmen," "V for Vendetta" and "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," decided to remove his name from the credits each time a movie has been made from one of his stories: He doesn't want to be connected to the possible embarrassment. Unfortunately, I have to say this is a smart move on his part.

"Watchmen" started off intense, opening with a walk through a timeline very different from ours, all set to music from the 1960s to the 1980s. Nixon had been elected at least three times. The Americans won the war in Vietnam. The famous picture of the hippie girl placing the flower in the soldier's

rifle barrel is brought to life to show the protestors being gunned down.

I tried to leave my inner comic-book fan boy at the door and pretended that I was seeing the story for the first time, but I couldn't help but be disappointed with some of the changes. For instance, one of the main characters, the masked crime fighter Rorschach, caught a child murderer and chained him to a furnace. In the book, he doused the place with gasoline, left the guy with a meat cleaver and set the house on fire to watch it burn from across the street. In the movie, Rorschach just freaked out and anti-climactically smashed the murderer's head in.

I didn't want a frame-by-frame remake of the book, because that would have taken a trilogy to do. I understood that some things

had to be shortened and some removed completely, but I wonder why some scenes were developed far more than they needed to be. The movie makers removed the entire pirate sub-plot from the book, but they still had time for lengthy sex scenes.

Choice pieces of dialogue that were kept in were moved around so they largely lost their significance. Near the end of the second hour, my mind was sick of visual candy and left hungry for more plotline. The computer graphics were amazing, but shouldn't be more important than the story. However, I'm afraid the special effects are going to be the main draw to this film.

The actors do their jobs incredibly well, however. Jackie Haley understood Rorschach's calm, savage brutality down cold while Jeffrey Morgan's role as the

Comedian reflects the harshness of the world.

"Watchmen" was beautiful to look at. The action was intense. But while so much time was spent on slow-motion spin kicks and making a 300-foot-tall blue man look real, the story became lost in a jumbled mess of background filler, most likely left in to make comic-book fanatics happy while the rest of the crowd is left wondering what the hell is going on until it's spelled out for them at the very end. The movie was far from a failure and, while I feel like a stereotypical nerd saying that I was disappointed, that's exactly what I was after I got past all the action and the flashy effects.



### FROM TRACK: PAGE 1

team picked up pace on the competition, qualifying 13 athletes for the finals in multiple track events - more than any school in the competition.

In the 200-meter dash, senior sprinter Pinar Saka ran the top qualifying time of 24.85. UNO also placed third with freshman Maja Mihalinec's time of 25.60.

"I knew we still had a chance to win it," Saka said. "I felt that we could compete with these teams, but we had to be very good the rest of the way."

Saka, the Istanbul, Turkey, native also qualified for the finals in three other events: the 400-meter dash, 60-meter dash and the 600-yard run. Accompanying her in the 600-yard run, sophomore middle-distance runner Jolene Smith landed the sixth seed with a time of 1:29.56.

Rounding out UNO's plethora of short-mid distance talent, sophomore sprinter Anja Puc qualified for the finals in both the 400- and 800-meter events with marks of 58.11 and 2:24.92, respectively. Leading the way for the Mavericks in the 800-meter, teammate Lisa Tesarek's time of 2:24.84 earned her a seventh seed in the finals.

Energized by Saka's performance, the Maverick sprinters held their ground in several events, producing their strongest performance of the meet.

Still, at the end of day two, the

Mavericks sat in last place out of the nine-team competition with a total of 6.5 points.

### Day three - Sunday

Saving the best for last, the final events of the three-day competition were completely dominated by the Mavericks. The team jumped from worst to first in day three, scoring 87.5 points in what was an intense battle to the end.

Once again led by the efforts of standout Saka, the Maverick track team posted a brilliant comeback.

Running in multiple sprinting events, Saka earned a meet high 30.5 points to lead all female and male athletes. Saka finished the day with first-place in both the 400-meter dash (55.69) and after a 15-minute rest, the 600-yard run (1:27.25). She also posted a second-place finish in the 60-meter event behind teammate Mihalinec.

"I was really tired, let me tell you," Saka said. "I knew I was going to run a lot, and I am still tired from it, but it feels good to be part of first conference championship."

Also helping to cement the title, freshman sprinter Mihalinec took first-place in the 60-meter event (7.70).

Mihalinec, a native of Mozirje, Slovenia, also finished the 200-meter in second-place with a time of 25.49.

"It's a good feeling to win it," Mihalinec said. "Back home, they don't have such a big thing like MIAA, so it was a special thing for me."

Puc also put up points for UNO as she took a second-place finish in the 800-meter (2:16.54) and third in the 400-meter (57.33).

"It was amazing, seriously," Puc said. "We all stuck together and I really felt a team spirit between all of us."

UNO's first MIAA championship was sealed when the Maverick 4x440 relay team came together and put forth a blistering performance. The four runners - Kayla Koepke, Puc, Saka and sophomores Jolene Smith and Kayla Koepke - knew they needed a first-place finish and for the Missouri Southern State University team to finish no better than sixth in order to be crowned MIAA champions.

The Maverick relay team finished with a time of 3:52.97, more than eight seconds faster than second-place Northwest Missouri State.

At that point, the MIAA title was still up in the air but Missouri Southern saw its title hopes disappear when it finished the heat in sixth-place. This final combination was the key to UNO's first ever MIAA title, defeating the Lions of Missouri Southern by a score of 94 to 92.5.

"The team was really excited, even

though people were tired," Smith said. "It was like everybody found a new energy for the 4x4, so it was a really good win for us."

*The new champions will now take a short break until the D-II National Championship meet in Houston, Texas, on March 13 and 14. The Mavericks will send six athletes to the event: Koepke, Mihalinec, Moore, Puc, Saka and Smith.*

*Saka will also represent her native country of Turkey in both the 400-meter and 4x440 meter relay events in the 2009 European Athletics Indoor Championships in Torino, Italy, held on March 6.*

### FROM HOCKEY: PAGE 4

Friday and Saturday at 7:05 p.m. A third game, if necessary, will also be played Sunday at 7:05 p.m.

Tickets went on sale Tuesday and are available through the Qwest Center box office, through the UNO Athletic Ticket Office located in the Sapp Fieldhouse or through Ticketmaster.

Lower bowl tickets for the series cost \$16 per game, while upper bowl seats are \$13.

Students heading to the game should also remember to bring \$3 for admission in addition to their MavCards, because of conference fees in the playoffs, according to the Athletic Ticket Office.

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**FROM BUDGET: PAGE 1**

maintained by the UNO Budget Advisory Task Force, which is charged with budget planning for the next biennium.

In addition to providing information on both the local budget process and university budgets nationally, the Web site also includes a section where members of the campus community can make suggestions or ask questions.

Faculty and staff were notified of the Web site on Wednesday by an e-mail from task force chairs Terry Hynes, senior vice chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, and Bill Conley, vice chancellor of Business and Finance.

"We hope you will find the site informative and helpful as we work together to make the

best recommendations we can in the decision process," Hynes and Conley wrote. "We will continue to add information as it becomes available."

The next step in the budget process will come by April 29, when the Appropriations Committee will advance a final budget proposal to the floor of the Legislature, which then has until May 18 to take final action on the budget.

The Board of Regents will then meet on June 12 to adopt a finalized university-wide budget and set tuition rates for the 2009-10 academic year. Milliken will announce campus budget figures on June 19, and the chancellors will then make allocations to individual colleges and departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

**FROM PLAN: PAGE 1**

for students in some of the other colleges on campus, including the College of Information Science and Technology and the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media.

In addition to the revamped information, handouts will also have an aesthetic makeover. They will feature an updated College of Arts and Sciences emblem, a uniform heading and department-specific photos.

With so many alterations, Boocker was quick to clarify the fact that the college isn't changing the actual degree requirements; it's just changing how they're explained.

"We are only trying to provide students a clear snapshot of what a four-year degree program looks like," Boocker said.

said. "What we're creating are model degree plans that are not intended to be set in stone."

The departments within the college are currently putting the final touches on their respective degree requirement sheets, and the college will start using the new format as soon as possible.

"We are in the proof stages now, so I would hope to roll them out later this semester," Boocker said.

In the near future, College of Arts and Sciences students, as well as advisers, can look forward to more clear and concise road maps to graduation.

"The benefit is simple: to be able to see what a degree plan looks like ... so that everyone can plan more effectively," Boocker said.

**FROM DEFENSE: PAGE 1**

Resources, Women's Resource Center and Fitness/ Wellness.

Eliss Hall, a fifth-degree black belt who has been teaching a self-defense course for more than eight years, will be the instructor at the workshops. Hall currently owns and maintains two martial arts academies.

The workshops will be held in Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building Room 110. Those attending should wear comfortable or workout clothes.

The Women's Resource Center will hold a breakfast social hour at 8:15 a.m. before the April 11 class in the Women's Resource Center office in Milo Bail Student Center. Those attending the breakfast will then walk to the workshop together.

To register for either workshop, stop by HPER Building Room 110 or call 554-2539. For more information, contact Daniels at 554-2008.

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